

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
/028 W

-----117649 151158Z /11

O 151131Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4117
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LENINGRAD 00803

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)
SUBJECT: CODEL PRICE: SUBSTANTIVE LENINGRAD PROGRAM

REF; MOSCOW 04635 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING CONFIRMS AND SUPPLEMENTS LENINGRAD PORTION OF
BROWN-ALEXANDER TELECONS.

2. FEDOSEYOV STATEMENT THAT CODEL WILL BE RECEIVED BY
RESPONSIBLE, SENIOR OFFICIALS SUGGESTS THAT GROUP WILL HAVE
A SUBSTANTIVE AND NOT MERELY CULTURAL VISIT TO LENINGRAD.
BUT WE ARE UNLIKELY TO KNOW UNTIL FAIRLY LATE NEXT WEEK
TO WHAT EXTENT OUR SPECIFIC REQUESTS (CALLS ON ROMANOV,
GENERAL SOROKIN, REAR ADMIRAL KOLCHIN, VISIT TO NAVAL BASE)
WILL BE MET. WE MAY, HOWEVER, GET SOME FEEL FOR REACTION
THIS WEEK FROM DIPLOMATIC AGENCY AND CITY GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE WILL NOW BEGIN DISCUSSING VISIT.

3. FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, ROMANOV WILL PROBABLY
BE CAREFUL NOT TO RECEIVE CODEL UNLESS SPECIFICALLY EN-
COURAGED TO DO SO BY BREZHNEV. HE CAN CONTINUE TO PLEAD
SICKNESS, WHETHER TRUE OR NOT. (ACCORDING OUR RECORDS,
HIS LAST APPEARANCE WAS AT MARCH 4 KOMSOMOL MEETING.) IF
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ROMANOV REMAINS UNAVAILABLE, HIGHEST PARTY OFFICIALS WOULD
BE HIS DEPUTY, SECOND SECRETARY V. F. SALOV'YEV AND FIRST
SECRETARY OF CITY PARTY COMMITTEE B. I. ARISTOV. CHAIRMAN
OF REGIONAL (OBLAST') EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SUPREME
SOVIET DEPUTY A. N. SHIBALOV AND CHAIRMAN (MAYOR) OF CITY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE L. N. ZAYKOV ARE THE LEADING OFFICIALS
ON GOVERNMENT SIDE WHO USUALLY MEET DISTINGUISHED WESTERN

DELEGATIONS.

4. SINCE I WAS ABLE TO PAY CALL ON GENERAL SOROKIN, WE FORESEE NO MAJOR PROBLEM IN ARRANGING MEETING WITH CODEL. ADMIRAL LEONENKOV REMAINS PARALYZED TO OUR KNOWLEDGE BUT REAR ADMIRAL KOLCHIN SHOULD ALSO BE ACCESSIBLE. WE ARE LESS SANGUINE ABOUT ACCESS TO NAVAL BASE.

5. IN VIEW OF ARMED SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES OF CODEL, SOVIETS WILL BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN AWARENESS OF WHAT USSR GENERALLY, AND LENINGRAD IN PARTICULAR, SUFFERED DURING WWII. (SECOND PART OF LONG FILM ON "BLOCKADE" HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED IN LENINGRAD AND WWII REMAINS AN ALL-ABSORBING, EVEN MORBID PREOCCUPATION OF THIS COUNTRY.) IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, THEREFORE, THAT, AT VERY LEAST, DELEGATION WALK THROUGH LENINGRAD WAR MEMORIAL ENROUTE FROM AIRPORT. WALK-THROUGH TAKES ONLY FEW MINUTES; IT IS CUSTOMARY TO LAY FLOWERS ON MEMORIAL STATUE IN CENTER. IT IS ALSO CUSTOMARY WITH IMPORTANT DELEGATION, AND MUCH APPRECIATED, IF AT LEAST DELEGATION HEAD LAYS WREATH AT PISKARYOV MEMORIAL CEMETARY, WHERE 800,000 LENINGRADERS ARE BURIED WHO DIED DURING BLOCKADE.

6. REPRESENTATION/CULTURAL PROGRAMS. I WILL BE PLEASED TO HOST RECEPTION FOR CODEL, EITHER INDEPENDENTLY OR AS RECIPROCAL HOSPITALITY FOR WHATEVER SOVIETS MAY OFFER. CONFIDENTIAL

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TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, WE WILL TRY TO SEE THAT RECEPTIONS ARE HELD SUFFICIENTLY EARLY TO ALLOW CODEL MEMBERS TO ATTEND CULTURAL EVENTS IN EVENING WHICH BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M.

7. FOR OPERA LOVERS, WE WOULD SUGGEST EUGENE ONEGIN AT KIROV ON SATURDAY NIGHT. SUNDAY BALLET AT KIROV IS FOUNTAIN OF BAKHCHISARAY (KIROV BALLET IS RELATIVELY BETTER THAN OPERA). LENINGRAD CIRCUS IS ALSO GOOD AND AVAILABLE BOTH DAYS. IT IS QUITE LIKELY, OF COURSE, THAT SOVIETS WILL INVITE WHOLE GROUP TO ONE OR ANOTHER PERFORMANCE AT KIROV. BUT WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING ASAP HOW MANY WISH TO ATTEND WHAT PERFORMANCES SO THAT WE CAN HAVE TICKETS LAID ASIDE. ALTERNATIVELY, SOME MEMBERS MAY PREFER SPEND EVENING IN RESTAURANT LIKE SADKO WHERE FOLK DANCES ARE ORGANIZED FOR TOURISTS, OR IN OTHER LOCAL RESTAURANT WHERE THERE IS DANCING. SINCE RESTAURANT KITCHENS CLOSE BY 10:30 P.M., IT IS DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE DINNER AFTER THEATER.

8. WE WOULD NOT ADVISE INCLUDING WIVES ON SUBSTANTIVE CALLS, UNLESS IT IS VISIT TO MAYOR'S OFFICE IN HANDSOME MARIINSKIY PALACE. FOR WIVES (AND CODEL MEMBERS IF SUB-

STANTIVE PROGRAM IS THIN), WE WOULD PLAN TO ARRANGE FULL SUNDAY CULTURAL PROGRAM. WE WOULD SUGGEST HERMITAGE, PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS (WHERE THERE IS ALSO NEW RESTAURANT IN PERIOD ATMOSPHERE FOR LUNCHEON) AND RUSSIAN MUSEUM. BUT IF GROUP PREFERS TO SPEND DAY AT CATHERINE'S PALACE

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O 151131Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LENINGRAD 00803

AND PAVLOVSK OUTSIDE OF CITY, THIS, TOO, MAKES FOR INTERESTING DAY. VISIT TO PETEROF IN WINTER IS NOT RECOMMENDED. THERE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE GENERAL SIGHT-SEEING TOUR OF CITY. PLEASE ADVISE PREFERENCES.

9. ONLY AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT IN LENINGRAD, EMIL SVEILIS (UPI), WILL CERTAINLY ASK TO MEET WITH CODEL ONCE VISIT IS ANNOUNCED. WHAT MAY WE TELL HIM?

10. MY WIFE AND I WOULD BE PLEASED IF REPRESENTATIVE AND MRS. PRICE WOULD STAY WITH US IN THE RESIDENCE. WE ASSUME THAT AMBASSADOR WILL JOIN CODEL IN LENINGRAD IF IT IS RECEIVED BY ROMANOV, AND THAT HE WILL THEN ALSO STAY WITH US. IF CODEL CHAIRMAN STAYS IN RESIDENCE, DEPARTMENT ESCORT OFFICER IS ALSO WELCOME. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LENING00803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780115-0017
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780367/aaaaceci.tel
Line Count: 161
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0355cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 4635
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3326545
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL PRICE: SUBSTANTIVE LENINGRAD PROGRAM
TAGS: OREP, (PRICE, MELVIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0355cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014